



# Labor News Bits

James E. McGreevey  
Governor

Albert G. Kroll  
Commissioner

April 8, 2003

**ATTENTION: BUSINESS MANAGERS & PRESIDENTS**

## News & Information

### Workforce development priority for McGreevey administration

Gov. James E. McGreevey and the Labor Department are making workforce development a central priority. That includes consolidating workforce development and job training programs under a new "Department of Labor and Workforce Development." It also involves educating workers and potential workers, providing easy access to job counseling services, and protecting workers who may be exploited or shortchanged.

NJDOL Commissioner Albert G. Kroll recently announced that training grants have been awarded to aid seven businesses in training their workforces to deal with the challenges of the global economy: Literacy grants were provided to J.P. Veggies, Inc. of Parsippany and Parmalat of Wallington. Customized training grants were awarded to Pressman Toys Corporation in New Brunswick, Huntsman Polyurethanes in West Deptford, Clark Cooper Corporation of Cinnaminson, Polyvel, Incorporated, of Hammonton, and K-Tron America in Pitman.

- J.P. Veggies, Inc. will use its \$19,300 grant to train all 30 of their workers in skills such as: English as a Second Language, basic computer proficiency, and work readiness.
- Parmalat will use its \$67,075 grant to train 150 of its employees in communication skills, computer training, and English as a Second Language.
- Pressman Toys, a company with 196 employees will train 120 workers with the \$54,000 grant to increase productivity and marketability.
- Huntsman Polyurethanes will use its \$124,400 grant to train 147 workers in computer, supervisory, sales and team-building skills.

- Clark Cooper Corporation and Polyvel, Inc. will be trained in the latest version of the ISO 9000 quality management system. The Contract Management Consultant consortium will train the combined company's 30 workers utilizing a \$64,277 grant.

- K-Tron America will use its \$148,600 grant to train and update the skills of 64 existing and seven new workers in the latest technology.

Information about customized training grants is available by calling (609) 292-2239 and is available on the Department of Labor Web site, [www.nj.gov/labor](http://www.nj.gov/labor).

### NJDOL recovers wages due employees

Maintaining its commitment to protect the rights of workers, NJDOL recently recovered over \$53,000 in wages for New Jersey employees from two companies.

"This department is working hard to protect the rights of all workers in New Jersey and to see that their employers do not exploit them," said Labor Commissioner Albert G. Kroll. "We're sending a clear message that New Jersey is committed to its workforce, both in finding jobs and protecting their interests in the workplace."

Enforcement efforts by the New Jersey Labor Department's Division of Wage and Hour Compliance led to collecting \$43,485.76 for New Jersey employees of Coast to Coast Labor Incorporated, a temporary employment agency based in Philadelphia. Coast to Coast Labor Incorporated was charged with failing to maintain an accurate record of employment for 55 employees and failing to pay the minimum hourly rate of \$5.15 per hour.

An investigation of Evergreen Landscaping and Lawncare, Incorporated

rated in Cologne resulted in the collection of \$9,642.13 in overtime wages owed to four employees of the company.

"These enforcement efforts also provide a level playing field for employers who routinely pay their employees properly for the time that they have worked. We want to make sure that law-abiding employers don't find themselves competing against firms that cut costs at the expense of their workers," Kroll said.

Workers can file complaints about their wages or hours by calling the department at (609) 292-7860. Information is also available on line at [www.nj.gov/labor](http://www.nj.gov/labor).

### Graduates of distance learning program honored

On March 19, Labor Department Chief of Staff Douglas Placa took part in a graduation ceremony honoring graduates of Monmouth County's Women's Distance Learning Center program for their dedication to improving their employment opportunities despite obstacles.

The Women's Distance Learning program is an innovative home-based program for women which offers flexibility in learning, including building their own schedules and working at their own pace. It also offers mothers the chance to learn without cutting into precious family time.

After being recruited, approved, and receiving training, participants have a personal computer installed in their homes. The computer offers a 24/7 help desk, as well as reports on achiever participation and goal attainment.

In 2001, the Women's Distance Learning program began as a pilot project in connection with the workforce investment boards in five sites across the state.

The graduation was held at the Brookdale Community College Long Branch Learning Center.

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**[www.nj.gov/labor](http://www.nj.gov/labor)**

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